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UNITED NATIONS NEW AGENDA FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA IN THE 1990s

Norway: revised draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/151 of 18 December 1991, the annex to which contains the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,

Also reaffirming its resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990 on programme planning, in which the economic recovery and development of Africa are spelt out as one of the five overall priorities reflected in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997,

Recalling its resolutions 45/178 of 19 December 1990 and 45/200 of 21 December 1990 on the critical economic situation in Africa and on African commodity problems, respectively,

Taking note of decisions 1992/19 of 26 May 1992 and 1993/17 of 18 June 1993 adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,

Taking note further of resolution CM/Res.1415 (LVI) of 28 June 1992 of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity on the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,

Also taking note of the continuing efforts of the Secretary-General to ensure the successful implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,

Convinced that growth and development on a sustained and sustainable basis can only come about as a result, inter alia, of the full participation of the people in the development process, in particular women,

Recognizing the persistent efforts undertaken by many African countries to implement political and economic reform policies and reaffirming the crucial importance of adequate social services and facilities to meet the basic needs of the populations and economic human-centred development, further recognizing the importance of good governance to meet overall development objectives,

Mindful of the need for African countries to diversify their economies, particularly their primary commodities, with a view to modernizing African production, distribution and marketing systems, enhancing productivity and stabilizing and increasing African export earnings in the face of the persistent decline of the prices of many primary commodities and the continuous deterioration in the terms of trade of African economies,

Reaffirming the importance of addressing the challenges facing African agricultural sectors, inter alia, drought, desertification, land degradation, locust infestation, land management and incentive structures, so as to achieve African food security as outlined in the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,

Deeply concerned by the constrained financial resource flows to Africa aggravated by rising debt and debt-service obligations and low private investment flows, and noting that Africa is the only continent experiencing a negative net transfer of resources in the 1990s,

Acknowledging the positive impact of substantive official development assistance transfers to Africa,

Reaffirming the commitments on resource flows, including private direct investment as contained in paragraphs 29 and 30 of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,

Mindful of the need for African countries to increase and mobilize internal resources for sustainable development through, inter alia, policies for the promotion of domestic savings, improved and accessible banking facilities and further improvements in traditional practices of capital formation at local levels,

Taking note of the International Conference on African Development, convened at Tokyo on 5 and 6 October 1993, and of the Declaration adopted,

Having considered the three reports of the Secretary-General on the preliminary consideration of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, 1/ the need for and feasibility of the establishment of a diversification fund for Africa's commodities, 2/ and financial resource flows to Africa, 3/

1/ A/48/334.

2/ A/48/335 and Add.1 and 2.

3/ A/48/336 and Corr.1.

1. Reaffirms the high priority attached, in the medium-term plan 1992-1997, to Africa's economic recovery and development, including the effective implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s as integrated in Programme 45;

2. Takes note with appreciation of the establishment of a panel of high-level personalities to advise and assist the Secretary-General on African development, in particular on the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, and requests that this panel continue to meet regularly under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General and that its recommendations be made available to the Member States;

3. Commends African countries for the actions undertaken to promote an economic environment conducive to growth and development, in conformity with their commitments under the New Agenda, and calls upon them to pursue vigorously those responsibilities and commitments in order to achieve growth and development on a sustained and sustainable basis;

4. Urges all United Nations organs, organizations and programmes to integrate the priorities of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s in their mandates, to allocate sufficient resources for their operation, and to improve further the use of available resources;

5. Recommends that, as part of capacity-building assistance, interested African countries be assisted in the monitoring of the impact of the work being undertaken in the context of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and in ensuring the participation of community-based groups, particularly women;

6. Renews its call upon the international community to pursue vigorously its responsibilities and commitments under the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s in order to provide full and tangible support to the African efforts;

7. Recognizes the importance and high priority to be given to African regional and subregional cooperation and integration and urges the United Nations system and its organizations to allocate sufficient technical and financial support to African regional economic groupings, including the African Economic Community, in order to contribute to their effectiveness in the process of African economic development;

8. Urges the multilateral financial institutions, recipient countries, and donor countries, within the conceptual framework, design and implementation of structural adjustment policies in Africa, to pay special attention to eradicating poverty and addressing the social impact of these policies, while focusing on public investment, fiscal reform, reform of public enterprises, export expansion and efficient public administration;

9. Invites the preparatory bodies of all forthcoming conferences of the United Nations system to take into account the specific needs, requirements and priorities of the African countries, as outlined in the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;

10. Also invites the Secretary-General to strengthen the capacity and capability of the Secretariat to raise international awareness of the urgent international and African actions needed to overcome the economic crisis in Africa, and to reinforce the capabilities of the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the least developed countries to follow up, monitor and evaluate implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and, in the process, provide an effective framework for the Economic and Social Council to consider the implementation of the New Agenda in 1995 as part of its high-level segment, as well as for the General Assembly to conduct a mid-term review of the implementation in 1996 of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, in accordance with paragraph 43 (b and c) thereof;

11. Calls upon the Secretary-General of the United Nations to work in close coordination and cooperation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, in particular, on the follow-up to and review and evaluation of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;

12. Welcomes the report by the Secretary-General entitled: "Need for and feasibility of the establishment of a diversification fund for Africa's commodities"; 2/

13. Affirms the need for further efforts to promote the diversification of African countries;

14. Stresses the importance attached to the necessity of the proposed establishment and operationalization of a diversification fund for African commodities;

15. Stresses also the need, in developing diversification projects and programmes, to make full and effective use of existing funding mechanisms;

16. Stresses further the need to fill any gaps which may exist in funding available for diversification of related activities;

17. Decides to address rigorously the full range of issues related to the diversification of African economies, with particular attention to the issues outlined in operative paragraphs 14, 15 and 16 of the present resolution, and, for this purpose, to convene in the first quarter of 1994, on the basis of background documents to be prepared by the Secretary-General, intensive consultations involving concerned and interested States, together with relevant financial institutions and United Nations organizations, including, inter alia, the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization;

18. Decides also to take full account of the conclusions of those consultations in making a firm determination, during the resumed forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, of appropriate action to be taken to strengthen support for the diversification of African economies, including the proposed

establishment of new funding arrangements, together with the organization of follow-up activities, such as seminars or expert workshops;

19. Encourages African countries to establish national diversification councils, as recommended in the report of the Secretary-General, including representatives from the Government and the private sector;

20. Urges the international community to increase financial resource flows to Africa as these are crucial to regenerate growth and sustainable development of the African economies, to provide effective support to the political and economic reforms in which many African countries are now engaged and to help cushion adverse social impact;

21. Recognizes that African debt overhang necessitates, inter alia, debt and debt-service reduction and/or cancellation, increased financial resource flows, African economic reform efforts, a supportive international economic environment as regards terms of trade, international exchange rates, international interest rates, together with an open international trading system, and, in that context, invites the international community to address Africa's external debt crisis and debt problems of African countries within the context of paragraphs 23 to 28 of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, including continuing to give serious consideration to the proposal for the convening of an international conference on Africa's external indebtedness;

22. Urges States that have not yet met the United Nations accepted target of providing 0.7 per cent of gross national product in official development assistance, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, to attain that target as soon as possible and provide a better environment for the realization of the suggested estimate of the need to achieve an average of a 4 per cent real growth in annual financial resource flows to Africa, as outlined in paragraph 29 of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;

23. Requests the Secretary-General to undertake a study in consultation with relevant financial institutions recommending appropriate measures to improve further financial intermediation systems and practices in African countries to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, which should take into account an in-depth analysis of the current traditional systems and practices of capital formation at the local level and the kind of support measures the international community could provide;

24. Urges African countries to continue their efforts for the improvement of the investment climate, and also urges donor countries to support those efforts by, inter alia, providing increasing assistance to human resources development and to social and economic infrastructure rehabilitation and development;

25. Requests Governments and organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations within their respective spheres of competence to take appropriate measures in order to implement the commitments contained in the Tokyo Declaration and to

take other initiatives, as may be necessary, with the participation of interested parties from Africa and the international community, to ensure an effective follow-up of the Conference;

26. Decides to include an item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s" in the agenda of its fiftieth session.